Grade 8 – 12 Transition Advisory Group Meeting Summary
Meeting Number 8 – March 7, 2011 - RSU 13 Superintendent's Office – 3:00 PM

Membership Present:

L. Berger, T. Forti, B. Gamage, K. Gamage, R. Gilson, N. Guyer, D. Johanson, J. Lucarelli, M.A. McLean, W. Pearce, A. Riley, L. Schooley, C. Kesselheim (GSP Consultant).

The outcomes for this meeting included the following:

Summary of Meeting Outcomes:

- 1. This meeting began with a review of the agenda and no adjustments were requested. In terms of general updates and sharing, the following points were highlighted:
 - Supt. Lucarelli confirmed that a plan is being developed to facilitate moving arrangements for teachers who will be relocating within the 8-12 configuration, and budget provisions for 2011-2012 are being contemplated to support this work. An updated review of this planning will occur at the next TAG meeting.
- 2. Superintendent Lucarelli led a review and discussion of the remaining or continuing benchmarks contained within Phase II of the Continuing Work Plan as this project now enters Phase III. Benchmarks that were highlighted in this review included:
 - 2G Joint Faculty Meetings. Continuing joint faculty meetings and work sessions have been occurring regularly, with the primary focus devoted to completing the program of studies document and budget preparation for 2011-2012. It is intended that a newly developed website for Oceanside High School be up and running by March 28th, and that the final draft of the 2011-2012 program of studies be posted there concurrent with the web sites opening. It is expected that joint faculty meetings will continue throughout the remainder of this school year and into the summer of 2011 as necessary.
 - 2J Planning for Alternative & GT services. N. Guyer reported that Oceanside West will be home base for alternative education programming connected to the Herring Gut Learning Center. Beginning in 2011-2012 this program will serve students in grades 7 through 9. For grades 10 12, alternative education programming will remain status quo at the McLain Building in Rockland and students enrolled will continue to access classes at Oceanside East and MCST as needed.

GT services will continue within its current structure with students in grades 5-8 receiving services via individualized learning plans coordinated by the GT teacher. Students in grades 9-12 will receive services focused upon advanced coursework and other enrichment opportunities. Teacher coordinators at both Oceanside locations will facilitate and monitor individualized learning plans and will receive stipends for this work.

• 2L – Student Activities. Principals Forti & Schooley reported that both campuses will be hosting a 'step up' day on March 15th so that students will be able to visit their respective schools for the coming school year and meet faculty. Guest speakers and transition activities are also planned for this time. Additional student activities profiled included a recent, joint school fundraising event for Project Graduation, a joint Junior Class college visitation activity, collaborative student training for Sophomore Awareness, and a joint presentation by student government officer to the RSU School Board on March 3rd. Future events being planned include day long transition programming for in-coming 8th graders at the YMCA Camp, and two days of transition and team building activities for in-coming 9th graders at Camp Kieve this coming spring. An update on these continuing endeavors will be provided at the next TAG meeting.

- 3. Superintendent Lucarelli led a review and discussion of the initial benchmarks contained within Phase III of the Continuing Work Plan. The following benchmarks were considered, and TAG group members offered questions and suggestions for altering timelines, clarifying those responsible for actions, or modifying intended procedures. Benchmarks that were highlighted in this review included:
 - 3B-Assessment of Staffing Needs. Supt. Lucarelli noted that the assessment of staffing needs for academics and guidance are completed and known. Staffing needs for allied arts are continuing to be assessed and final determinations will be made in the near future.
 - 3C Unified Grading. L. Schooley reiterated that this benchmark has been scaled back for the near term. A grading committee with representatives from both campuses continues to meet and work together with the goal of producing a unified grading guide that will be shared across grades 8 12 beginning in 2011-2012. This will deal with a unified grading scale, the treatment of 'extra credit,' grading weights for homework, etc. Future work into 2011-2012 and beyond will focus on transitioning to standards-based grading and defining clear learning targets for all courses taught 8-12.
 - 3D Instructional Day Schedules. Principal Schooley noted that Oceanside West will hold a work session on March 9th to continue deliberating schedule options. At this meeting various options will be considered that would result in a day-to-day schedule consisting of seven periods. This would allow teachers to see their students on a daily basis and would also build in an 'academy period' that would be utilized to provide focused interventions. Oceanside East currently intends to maintain the rotating schedule currently in place.
 - 3E Counselors Advisory Recommendations. N. Guyer reported on the Counselors Advisory group meeting that was held on Feb 15th. At this meeting recommendations were made concerning maintaining co-valedictorians & salutatorians for the 2011-2012 school year, and initiating a more in-depth study for on-going class standing procedures focused on alternative structures that might be considered in relation to their impact upon student learning. Recommendations were also advanced for expanding 'credit recovery' procedures, recognizing 'advanced standing' for 8th grade students successfully completing high school level courses, and the initiation of a special committee to reformulate graduation practices that would begin working in late summer of 2011. The charge to this committee would be to audit historical practices of the existing high schools and propose graduation procedures for the spring of 2012 that would blend the old with the new.
 - 2K NEASC Steering Committee. This benchmark was held over and repositioned within Phase III. Principal Forti reviewed plans for the RSU 13 teacher workshop day that is planned for March 11th. All 8-12 faculty will convene at Oceanside East for the kick off of accreditation activities. These will include an over-view NEASC presentation, the formation and initial meeting of the steering committee, and the formation and initial meetings of the seven standards committees. All 8-12 faculty members will serve on a standards committee and funds to support accreditation work will be included in the 2011-2012 budget.

These benchmark progress notes will be included in the 03-07-11 update of the continuing work plan. This updated plan will be posted on the website later in March.

- 4. C. Kesselheim and N. Guyer presented a brief review of the elements included in the proposed longer term evaluation plan for 8-12 programming. TAG members present convened in two working groups to pursue discussions and formulate final recommendation for this plan. These recommendations included:
 - Student Surveys include grade ten in the surveying sequence with a focus on transition issues that may occur as students move from Oceanside West to Oceanside East.
 - Include GPA as an indicator with the tracking of student variables correlated with attainment.
 - Include teacher recommendation as a criterion for 11th grade students indicated for Accuplacer mathematics and reading assessments.

TAG members endorsed the proposed evaluation plan. Neal Guyer will convene a meeting of district-wide administrative and data management personnel to initiate the process for implementing the plan, begin collecting baseline data, and contemplate efficient procedures for maintaining evaluation practices over time. This effort will seek to coordinate data sources and to create and/or maximize recording routines already in place to consistently support evaluative efforts. A reporting format will also be organized so that routine updates will be provided to the RSU 13 School Board and the community at large.

- 5. The TAG membership confirmed that the next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 4, 2011. This meeting will take place at the Superintendent's Office, conference room, 3:00 5:00 PM
 - This meeting was adjourned by Superintendent Lucarelli at 5:00 PM.